

# **Porous Asphalt Pavements – Not Just for Parking Lots Anymore!**

**Charles W. Schwartz**  
**University of Maryland—College Park**

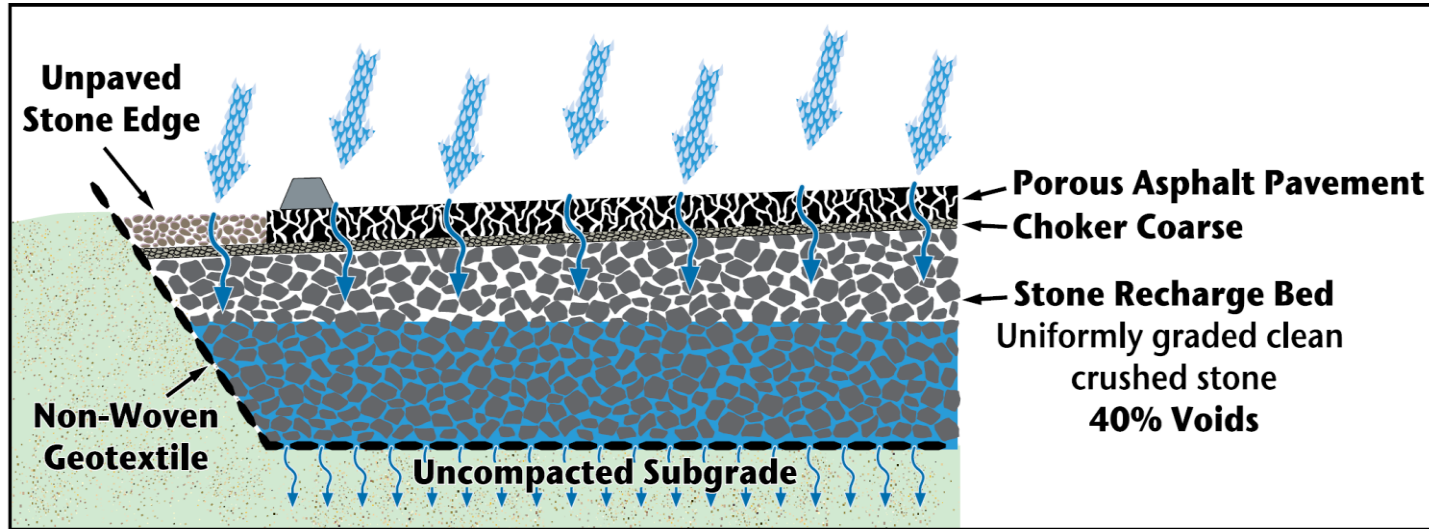
**VAA 2017 Fall Asphalt Conference    Richmond VA    October 3, 2017**



# Background



# Porous Pavements



*National Asphalt Pavement Association, IS-131*

## Hydrologic Characteristics:

- Subgrade infiltration rate: 0.1 to 10 inches/hour
  - Time to drain, stone recharge bed: 12 to 72 hours
- } Stone Recharge Bed  
typical thickness:  
12 to 36 inches

# Scope

## ✓ Structural Design of Porous Asphalt Pavements

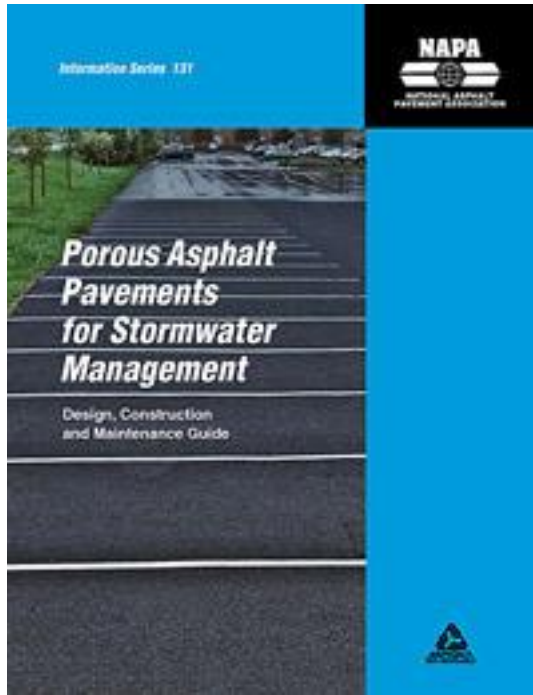
*Ensuring the Pavement Structure Can  
Carry the Design Traffic Loads*

- ✗ Site selection
- ✗ Hydrologic design
- ✗ Mixture design
- ✗ Construction
- ✗ Maintenance

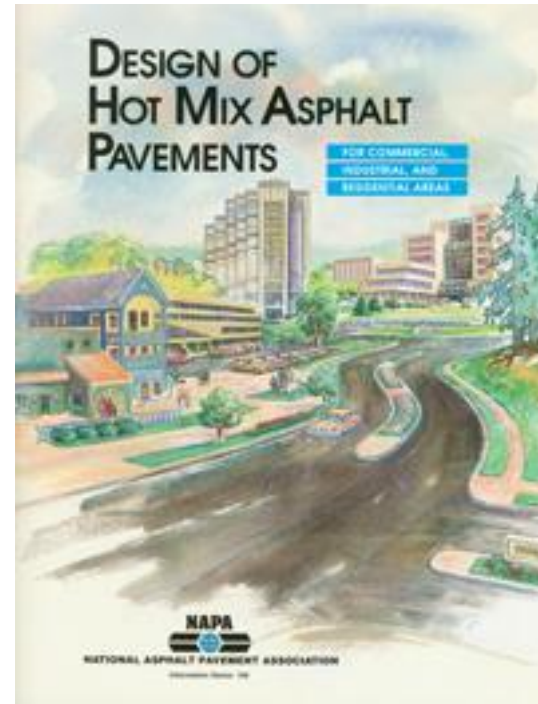




# Additional Information Sources

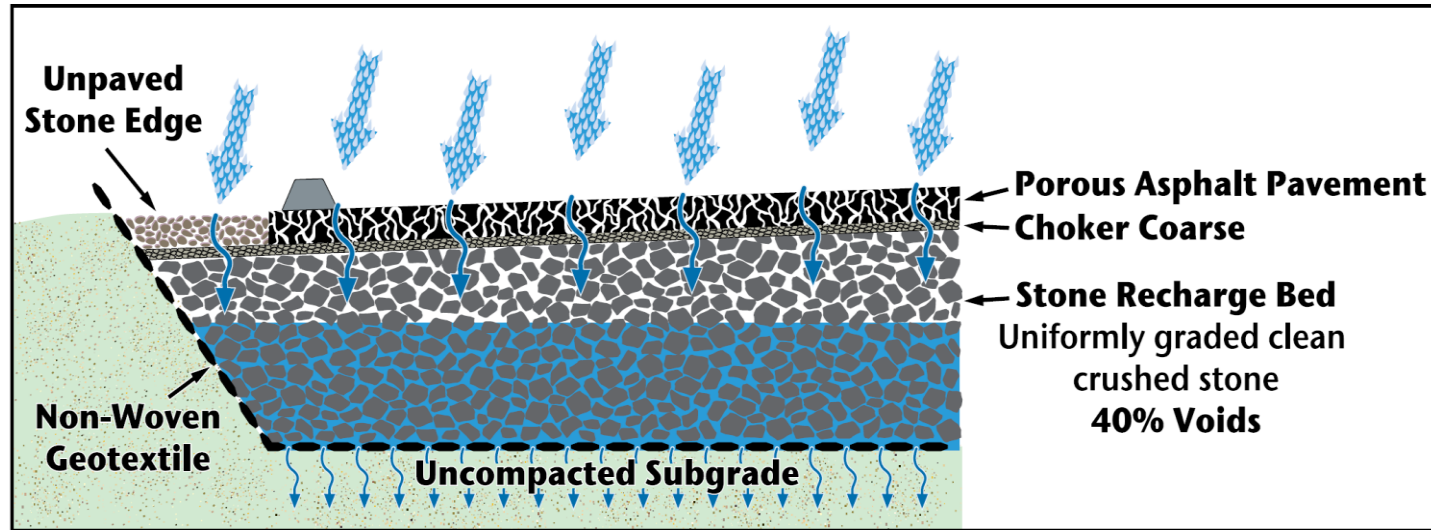


NAPA Information Series 131



NAPA Information Series 109

# Porous Pavements



*National Asphalt Pavement Association, IS-131*

# Porous vs. Conventional Pavements (1)

Pavement Layer	Purpose	Material(s)	Purpose	Material(s)
	<i>Porous Asphalt</i>		<i>Conventional Flexible</i>	
Asphalt Surface	Provide stable wearing surface; allows infiltration of water to stone recharge bed	Open-graded asphalt concrete; minimal compaction; interconnected voids; high air voids (typically 15 to 20% or more); permeable	Provide stable wearing surface; maintain ride quality; prevent water infiltration into the underlying layers; reduce traffic-induced stress/strain to underlying layers	Dense-graded asphalt concrete; low air voids (typically <8%); relatively impermeable; may have 1, 2, or 3 lifts of varying aggregate size.

# Porous vs. Conventional Pavements (2)

Pavement Layer	Purpose	Material(s)	Purpose	Material(s)
	<i>Porous Asphalt</i>		<i>Conventional Flexible</i>	
Base Layer(s)	“Choker Course” - stable surface for subsequent paving	Clean, single-sized crushed stone	Provide structural capacity to pavement system; reduce traffic-induced stress/strain on subgrade	Dense-graded crushed stone
	“Recharge Bed” - stormwater storage	Clean, single-sized large crushed stone with high void ratio (typically ~40%)		
	“Separation Layer” - prevents migration of fine subgrade material to recharge bed	Geotextile fabric		



# Porous vs. Conventional Pavements (3)

Pavement Layer	Purpose	Material(s)	Purpose	Material(s)
	<i>Porous Asphalt</i>		<i>Conventional Flexible</i>	
Subgrade	Provide infiltration of stormwater	Natural or select material (ideally, low fines content); typically uncompacted or only lightly-compacted to promote infiltration	Provide stable platform for pavement structure	Natural or select material; typically compacted to high percentage of maximum density

# Structural Design



# Structural Design Methodology

*Empirical AASHTO Flexible Pavement Design Equation (1993):*

$$\log_{10} w_{18} = z_R * s_o + 9.36 * \log_{10} (SN + 1) - 0.2 + \frac{\log_{10} \left[ \frac{\Delta PSI}{4.2 - 1.5} \right]}{0.40 + \frac{1094}{(SN + 1)^{5.19}}} + 2.32 * \log_{10} M_R - 8.07$$

**SN = required Structural Number (structural capacity) of the pavement**

$w_{18}$  = number of 18-kip equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) expected over design life

$z_R$  = standard normal deviate (level of design reliability)

$s_o$  = standard deviation

$\Delta PSI$  = allowable change in the Present Serviceability Index (PSI) over design life

$M_R$  = subgrade resilient modulus (psi)

# Structural Design Methodology



*Empirical AASHTO Flexible Pavement Design Equation (1993):*

$$\log_{10} w_{18} = z_R * s_o + 9.36 * \log_{10} (SN + 1) - 0.2 + \frac{\log_{10} \left[ \frac{\Delta PSI}{4.2 - 1.5} \right]}{0.40 + \frac{1094}{(SN + 1)^{5.19}}} + 2.32 * \log_{10} M_R - 8.07$$

**$SN$  = design Structural Number of the pavement = *DESIGN OUTPUT***

$$SN = D_1 a_1 + D_2 a_2 m_2$$

$D_1$  = thickness of asphalt layer

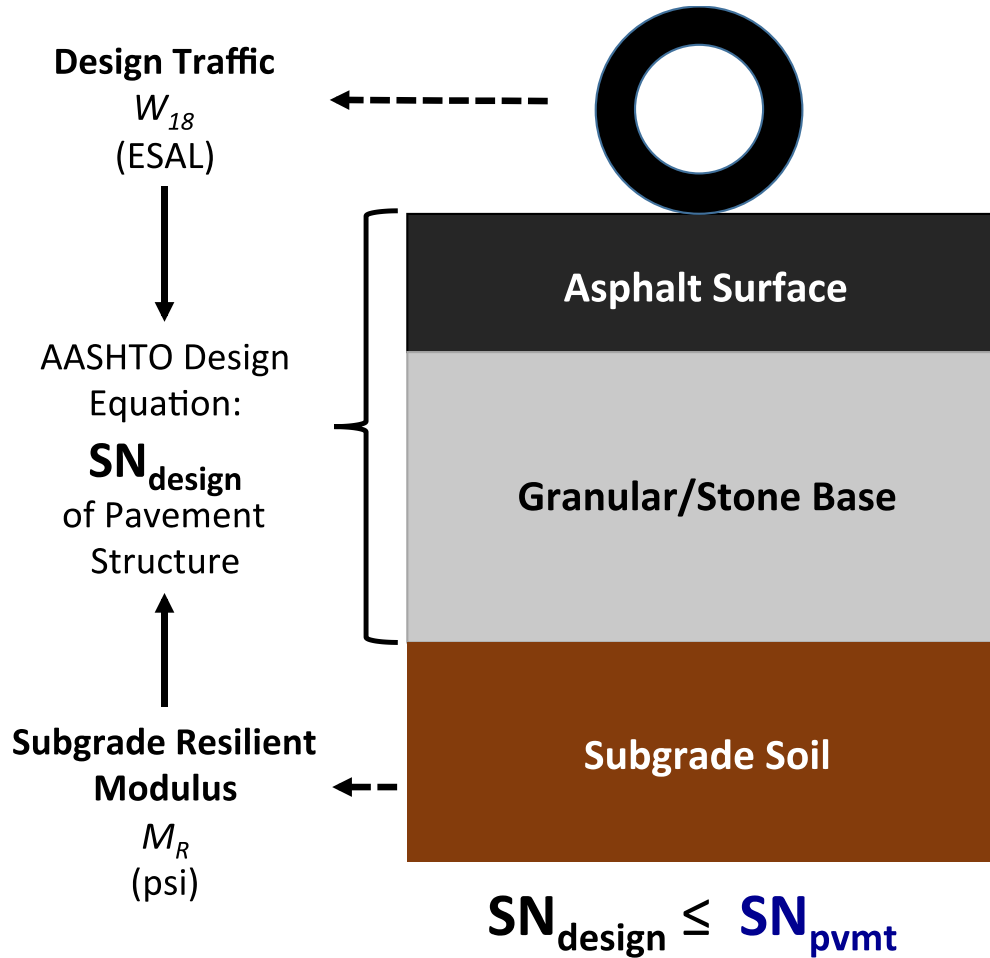
$a_1$  = structural layer coefficient for asphalt

$D_2$  = thickness of granular base (stone recharge bed)

$a_2$  = structural layer coefficient for granular base

$m_2$  = moisture/drainage coefficient for granular base





$a_i$  = structural coefficient  
 $d_i$  = thickness (in)  
 $m_i$  = drainage coefficient

$$a_1 * d_1 = SN_1$$

+

$$a_1 * d_1 * m_2 = SN_2$$



$$SN_1 + SN_2 = SN_{pvmt}$$

# Structural Design Inputs (1)



## ***AASHTO Design Equation: Design Traffic $w_{18}$ (ESALs)***

Use existing agency procedure for estimating design traffic or the NAPA Traffic Classifications:

Type of facility and vehicle types	Maximum trucks per month (one lane)	Traffic class	Design period (years)	Design ESALs
Residential driveways, parking stalls, parking lots for autos and pickup trucks.	<1	Class I	5	3,000
			10	3,000
			15	5,000
			20	7,000
Residential streets without regular truck traffic or city buses; traffic consisting of autos, home delivery trucks, trash pickup, occasional moving vans, etc.	60	Class II	5	7,000
			10	14,000
			15	20,000
			20	27,000
Collector streets, shopping center delivery lanes; up to 10 single-unit or 3-axle semi-trailer trucks per day or equivalents; average gross weights should be less than the legal limit.	250	Class III	5	27,000
			10	54,000
			15	82,000
			20	110,000
Heavy trucks; up to 75 fully loaded 5-axle semi-trailer trucks per day; equivalent trucks in this class may included loaded 3-axle and 4-axle dump trucks, gross weights over 40,000 lbs.	2200	Class IV	5	270,000
			10	540,000
			15	820,000
			20	1,100,00

# Structural Design Inputs (2)



*AASHTO Design Equation: Reliability, Standard Deviation,  $\Delta PSI$*

## Design Reliability

Reliability (%)	Std Normal Deviate, $Z_R$
50	0.000
75	-0.674
80	-0.842
90	-1.282
95	-1.645
99.99	-3.719

## Standard Deviation

Typical values for the AASHTO flexible pavement equation:

**0.42 – 0.49**

## $\Delta PSI$

$$\Delta PSI = p_0 - p_t$$

$p_0$  Initial serviceability index;  
typical values: 4.2 – 4.5

$p_t$  Terminal serviceability index;  
typical values: 2.0 – 2.5

Typical Values for  $\Delta PSI$ :

**2.0 – 2.5**

# Structural Design Inputs (3)



## *AASHTO Design Equation: Subgrade Resilient Modulus $M_R$*

- Resilient modulus for existing subgrade soil
  - NAPA Subgrade Classification Guide (next slide)
- Typical modulus values in NAPA table be reduced by 25 to 50%
  - Subgrades typically uncompacted/lightly compacted
  - Subgrades typically at higher moisture contents
- Composite subgrade modulus for structural pavement design
  - Accounts better for thick stone recharge bed
  - Procedure described later



# Subgrade Classification Guide with Typical Resilient Modulus ( $M_R$ ) Values

NAPA Information Series 109, Design of Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavements for Commercial, Industrial, and Residential Areas (2002)



Soil Type	Unified Soil Class	Percent Finer Than 0.02mm	Permeability	Frost Potential <sup>1</sup>	Typical CBR <sup>2</sup>	Design Class	Typical Flexible Pavement $M_r$ (psi) <sup>2</sup>	Recommended Porous Pavement $M_r$ (psi) <sup>2</sup>
Sands, sand-gravel mix Little or no fines <0.02mm	SW,SP	0 – 3	Excellent	NFS	17	Very Good	20,000	20,000
Sands, sand-gravel mix Some fines <0.02mm	SW,SP	1.5 – 3	Good	PFS	17	Very Good	20,000	20,000
Sandy soils Medium fines <0.02mm	SW,SP,SM	3 – 6	Fair	Low	8	Good	12,000	9,000
Silty gravel soils High fines <0.02mm	GM GW-GM,GP-GM	6 – 10 10 - 20	Fair to Low	Medium	8	Good	12,000	9,000
Silty sand soils High fines <0.02mm	SM SW-SM,SP-SM	6-15	Fair to Low	Medium	8	Good	12,000	9,000
Clayey sand soils High fines <0.02mm	SM,SC	Over 20	Low to Very Low	Medium to High	5	Medium	7,500	3,750
Clays, $PI > 12$	CL,CH		Very Low	High <sup>3</sup>	3	Poor	4,500	2,250
All silt soils	ML,MH		Very Low	High to V.High <sup>3</sup>	3	Poor	4,500	2,250
Clays, $PI < 12$	CL,CL-CM		Very Low	High to V.High <sup>3</sup>	3	Poor	4,500	2,250

<sup>1</sup>NFS = not frost susceptible; PFS = possible frost susceptible

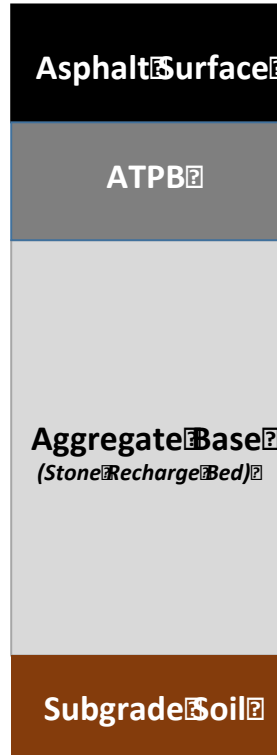
<sup>2</sup>CBR = California Bearing Ratio and  $M_r$  = Resilient Modulus values are minimum values expected for each subgrade class

<sup>3</sup>Replace in severe frost areas

(Excerpts)

# Structural Design Inputs (4)

## AASHTO Design Equation: Layer coefficients $a_i$



Porous Asphalt Surface:  $a_1 = 0.40$

- Typically placed at low densities
- Typically features open gradations

Asphalt-Treated Permeable Base (ATPB):  $a_2 = 0.30$  to  $0.33$   
(if present)

Coarse Aggregate Base (Stone Recharge Bed):  $a_2 = 0.07$  to  $0.10$

- Typically placed at high void contents (lower stiffness, e.g. 15 ksi)
- AASHTO stiffness relationship for granular base:

$$a_2 = 0.247(\log_{10} E_{\text{base}}) - 0.977$$

# Structural Design Inputs (5)

## AASHTO Design Equation: Drainage coefficient $m_2$

### Applies to unbound materials only

(Coarse Aggregate Base [Stone Recharge Bed])

- AASHTO relationship based on “quality” of drainage (time to drain) and percent time near saturation

For Porous Asphalt pavements:

- Assumed drainage quality is GOOD (water removed in ~1 day)
- Assumed time near saturation is 5-25%

**Aggregate Base**  
(Stone Recharge Bed)

Quality of Drainage	Water Removed Within	Percent of Time Pavement is Exposed to Moisture Levels Approaching Saturation			
		<1%	1-5%	5-25%	>25%
Excellent	2 hours	1.40-1.35	1.35-1.30	1.30-1.20	1.20
Good	1 day	1.35-1.25	1.25-1.15	1.15-1.00	1.00
Fair	1 week	1.25-1.15	1.15-1.05	1.00-0.80	0.80
Poor	1 month	1.05-0.80	1.05-0.80	0.80-0.60	0.60
Very Poor	> 1 month	0.95-0.75	0.95-0.75	0.75-0.40	0.40

For porous pavement design, use  $m_2 = 1.0$  for all situations

# Base Effective Thickness





6" Asphalt Surface  
(a = 0.40)

$SN_1 = 2.4$

Semi-Infinite  
"Subgrade"

*similar to*

Stone Recharge Bed  
( $M_R = 20,000$  psi)  
(a = 0.10)

6" Asphalt Surface  
(a = 0.40)

$SN_1 = 2.4$

Stone Recharge Bed  
( $M_R = 20,000$  psi)  
(a = 0.10)  
36"

$SN_2 = 3.6$

Uncompacted  
Subgrade  
( $M_R = 4000$  psi)



## A Problem...

How can a weaker pavement section carry **20x** more traffic??

*From the AASHTO Design Equation:*

Reliability = 75% ( $z_R = -0.674$ )

Std. Deviation ( $S_o$ ) = 0.45

Change in PSI ( $\Delta PSI$ ) = 2.5 ( $p_o=4.5$ ;  $p_t=2.0$ )

Subgrade Modulus ( $M_R$ ) = 20,000 psi

Structural Number (SN) = 2.40

→ Allowable Traffic **2.3M ESALs**

*From the AASHTO Design Equation:*

Reliability = 75% ( $z_R = -0.674$ )

Std. Deviation ( $S_o$ ) = 0.45

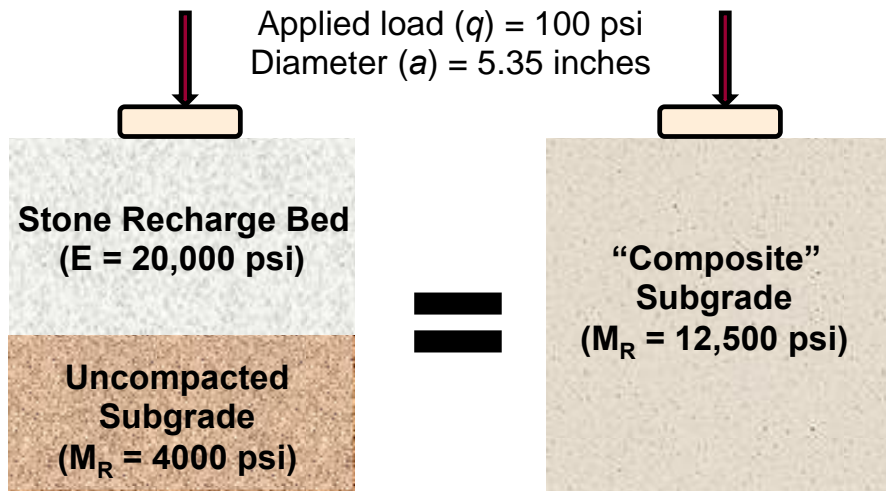
Change in PSI ( $\Delta PSI$ ) = 2.5 ( $p_o=4.5$ ;  $p_t=2.0$ )

Subgrade Modulus ( $M_R$ ) = 4000 psi

Structural Number (SN) = 6.0

→ Allowable Traffic **41.5M ESALs!!**

These two cross-sections are **structurally equivalent** based on equal surface deflections from an applied load.



Burmister's Equation  
For 2-layer systems:

$$w_o = \frac{1.5qa}{E_2} F_2$$

Burmister's Equation  
For 1-layer systems:

$$w_o = \frac{1.5qa}{E}$$

# Composite Subgrade Concept



The analysis is based on elastic layer theory; the two-layer (stone over subgrade) system is converted to a one-layer ('composite' subgrade) system.

where:

$w_o$  = surface deflection (in)

$q$  = applied load (psi)

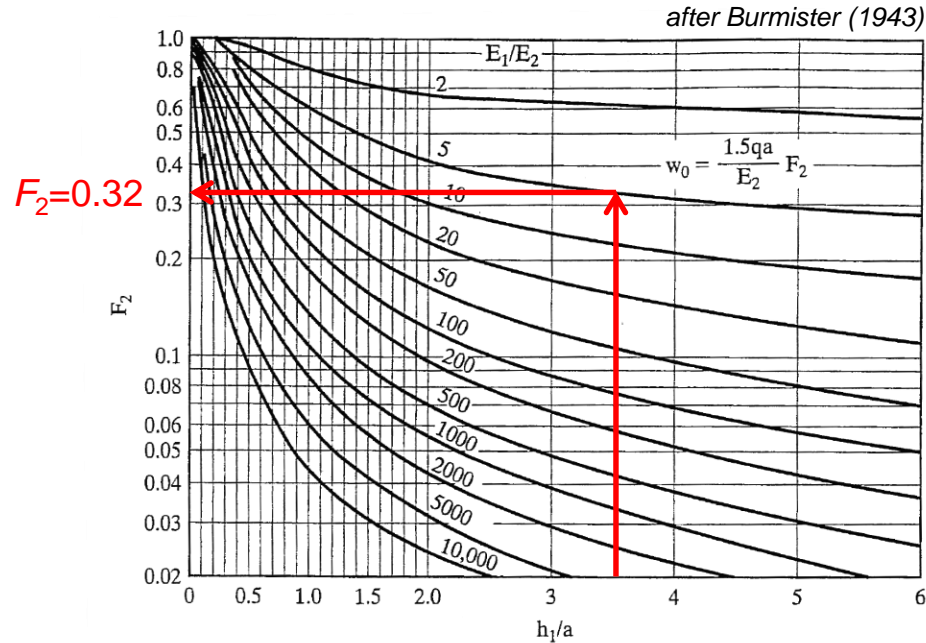
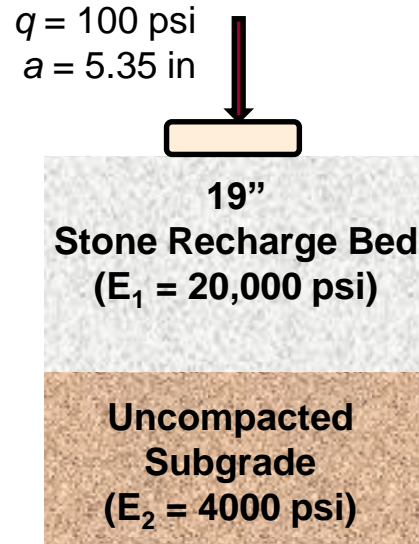
$a$  = load diameter (in)

$E$  = single-layer modulus

$E_2$  = 'layer 2' modulus in 2-layer system  
(uncompacted subgrade)

$F_2$  = Burmister's 2-layer deflection factor

# Deflection of Two-Layer System



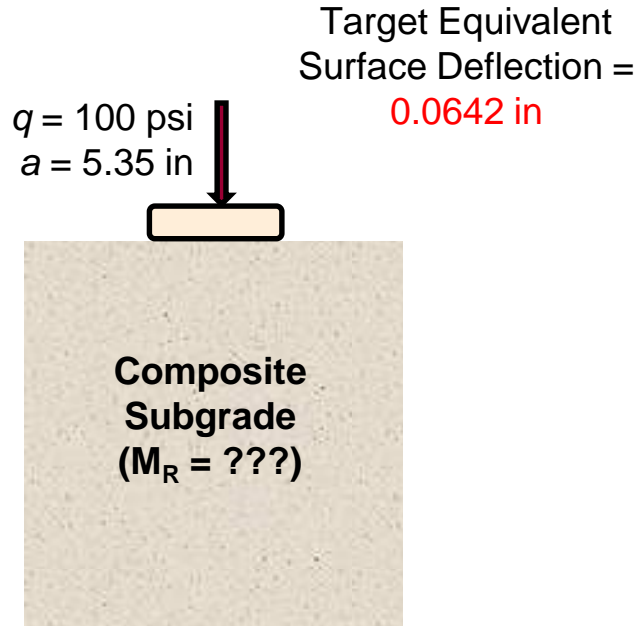
Surface Deflection:

$$w_o = \frac{1.5qa}{E_2} F_2 = \frac{(1.5)(100 \text{ psi})(5.35 \text{ in})}{4000 \text{ psi}} (0.32) = 0.0642 \text{ in}$$

$$E_1/E_2 = 20,000 \text{ psi} / 4,000 \text{ psi} = 5.0$$

$$h_1/a = 19 \text{ in} / 5.35 \text{ in} = 3.55$$

# Composite Subgrade Stiffness of Equivalent One-Layer System



Surface Deflection for One-Layer System:

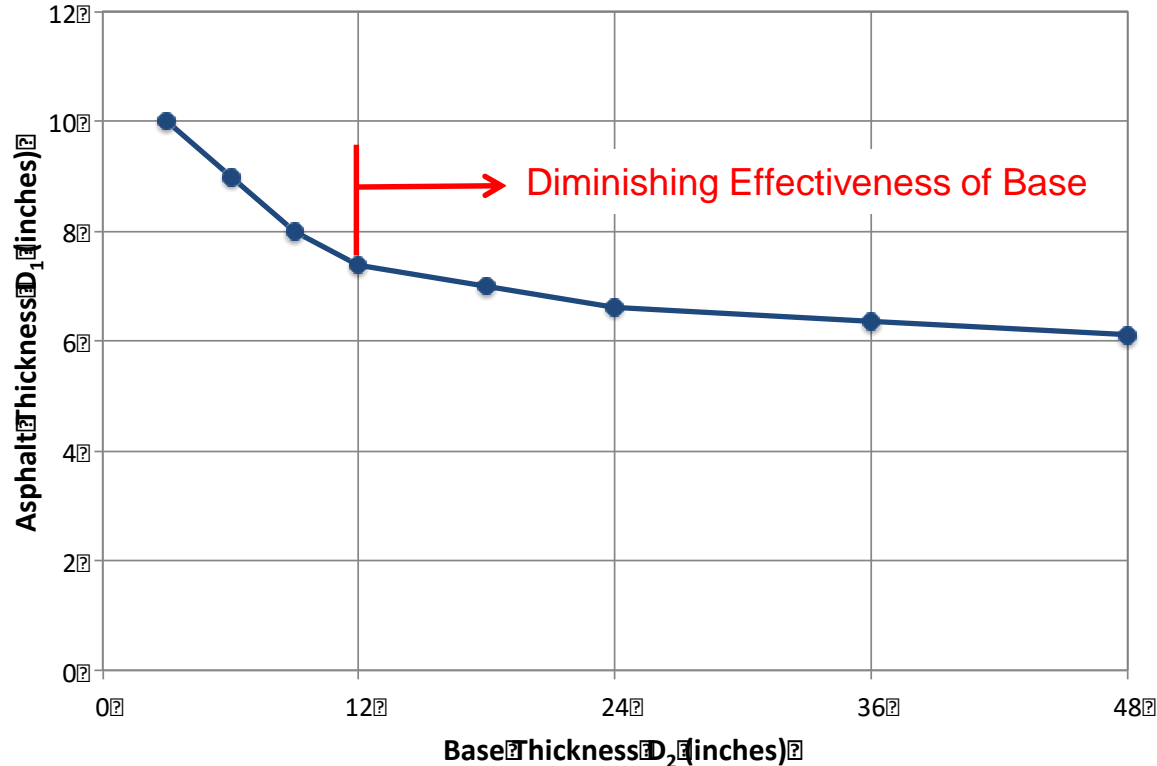
$$w_0 = \frac{1.5qa}{E}$$

Equivalent Composite Subgrade for One-Layer System:

$$E = \frac{1.5qa}{w_0} = \frac{1.5(100 \text{ psi})(5.35 \text{ in})}{0.0642 \text{ in}} = 12,500 \text{ psi}$$



# Effective Thickness of Base Layer



Maximum base thickness at AASHTO Road Test was 9 inches!

# Design Example



# Structural Design Methodology

*Empirical AASHTO Flexible Pavement Design Equation (1993):*

$$\log_{10} w_{18} = z_R * s_o + 9.36 * \log_{10} (SN + 1) - 0.2 + \frac{\log_{10} \left[ \frac{\Delta PSI}{4.2 - 1.5} \right]}{0.40 + \frac{1094}{(SN + 1)^{5.19}}} + 2.32 * \log_{10} M_R - 8.07$$

**$SN$  = design Structural Number of the pavement =  $D_1 a_1 + D_2 a_2 m_2$**

$w_{18}$  = number of 18-kip equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) expected over design life

$z_R$  = standard normal deviate (level of design reliability)

$s_o$  = standard deviation

$\Delta PSI$  = allowable change in the Present Serviceability Index (PSI) over design life

$M_R$  = subgrade resilient modulus (psi)

# Minimum Porous Asphalt Thickness (1)



## *Given:*

- Design traffic (project specific): **3M** ESALs (Heavy Trucks)
- Allowable deterioration (typical values and/or agency policy):
  - $\otimes$ PSI = **2.5** (Initial PSI  $p_0 = 4.5$ ; Terminal PSI  $p_t = 2.0$ )
- Reliability parameters (typical values and/or agency policy):
  - Reliability: **75%** ( $Z_R = -0.674$ )
  - Standard Deviation: **0.45**
- Stone recharge bed → **layer to be protected by asphalt layer**
  - Resilient Modulus: **20,000** psi

*Solve AASHTO Flexible Pavement Design Equation:*  **$SN_1 = 2.55$**

*Minimum asphalt thickness:*  **$D_1 = SN_1/a_1 = 6.4$  in., use  $D_1 = 6$  inches**

# Minimum Porous Asphalt Thickness (2)

$W_{18}$ (ESALs)	Minimum Porous Asphalt Thickness (inches)
50,000	3.0
100,000	3.5
250,000	4.0
500,000	4.5
750,000	5.0
1,000,000	5.5
2,000,000	6.0
4,000,000	6.5

?

( $a_1 = 0.1$ ,  $E_{base} = 20,000$  psi, 75% reliability,  $s_0 = 0.45$ ,  $\Delta PSI = 2.5$ )



- ① **Design For Hydrologic Capacity**  
(not covered here)  
 $D_1 = 6''$   
 $D_2 = 19''$

- ② **Determine Composite Subgrade Modulus**  
(see previous slides)  
 $M_R$  (existing) = 4000 psi  
 $M_R$  (composite) = 12,500 psi

- ③ **Determine Structural Number Required for Future Traffic ( $SN_{design}$ )**  
(see previous slides)

- ④ **Determine Required Porous Asphalt Thickness ( $D_1$ )**

**6" Asphalt Surface\***  
( $a_1 = 0.40$ )

**19"**  
**Stone Recharge Bed**  
( $M_R = 20,000$  psi)  
( $a_2 = 0.10$ )

**Uncompacted Subgrade**  
( $M_R = 4000$  psi)

**? " Asphalt Surface**  
( $a_1 = 0.40$ )

**"Composite" Subgrade**  
( $M_R = 12,500$  psi)

$W_{18} = 3.0M$  ESAL  
 $R = 75\%$  ( $Z_R = -0.674$ )  
 $S_0 = 0.45$   
 $\Delta PSI = 2.5$

**USE**  
 **$M_R = 12,500$  psi**  
**(composite  $M_R$ )**

**$SN_{design} = 2.94$**

$SN_{design} = SN_1$   
 $SN_1 = D_1 * a_1$   
SO...  
 $D_1 = SN_1 / a_1$   
 $= 2.94 / 0.40$

$D_1 = 7.35''$   
or  
 **$D_1 = 7.5''$**   
(for **STRUCTURAL** design)

\*Maximum for hydrologic design

# Design Catalog Tables

For  $W_{18} = 3,000,000$  ESAL



		Design Subgrade Resilient Modulus (psi)						
		2000	3000	4000	6000	8000	10000	12000
Base Thickness (inches)	6	11.5	10	9	8	7.5	7.5	7
	12	10	8.5	8	7.5	7	7	6.5
	18	8.5	8	7.5	7	7	7	6.5
	24	8	7.5	7.5	7	7	6.5	6.5
	30	7.5	7.5	7	7	6.5	6.5	6.5
	36	7.5	7	7	7	6.5	6.5	6.5
	42	7	7	7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
	48	7	7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5



## Required Porous Asphalt Thickness

### Design Assumption for Catalog Tables:

- $a_1 = 0.40$  (porous asphalt)
  - $a_2 = 0.10$  (stone base)
  - $E_{\text{base}} = 20,000$  psi (stone base)
  - 75% reliability ( $Z_R = -0.674$ )
  - $s_0 = 0.45$  (overall variability)
  - $\Delta\text{PSI} = 2.5$  (allowable serviceability decrease)
  - $a = 5.35$  in (load radius)
  - $q = 100$  psi (load pressure)
- Values for composite subgrade modulus computation*

(For thin bases, also use conventional AASHTO design and take most conservative case)

Contact Info:

**Dr. Charles W. Schwartz**

University of Maryland

[schwartz@umd.edu](mailto:schwartz@umd.edu)

+1.301.405.1962



**A. JAMES CLARK**  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

